

## CLAIMS

1. A protective headgear device, comprising:
  - (a) a circumferential member composed of a foam material generally conforming to the shape of a user's head and having an interior surface;
  - (b) a plurality of internal pads, spaced apart from one another, and secured to the interior surface of the circumferential member adjacent to predetermined areas of the head, and the internal pads absorb or disperse trauma forces applied to the headgear; and,
  - (c) a plurality of impact plates affixed to the interior surface of circumferential member, and each impact plate is disposed between the circumferential member and a corresponding internal pad, and the impact plates absorb or disperse trauma force applied to the headgear.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein each impact plate has circumferential edge defining a shape of the impact plate and each internal pad associated with an impact plate has a circumferential edge coextensive with the edge of the impact plate.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein said device circumferential member and internal pads are covered with a polyvinyl coating material.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein said impact plates include a first impact plate and a second impact plate, and the first and second impact plates are each positioned on the circumferential member for protection of a user's ears.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein an impact plate is positioned on the interior surface of the circumferential member for protection of the back of a user's head.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein the circumferential member comprises at least one aperture through each side of the circumferential member adjacent an ear of the user and the impact plates include a first impact plate and a second impact plate on the interior surface of the circumferential member and each first and second plate

generally following an outline of an ear and extending around said aperture, and substantially not covering the aperture.

7. A protective headgear device for protecting a user's head from trauma forces, comprising:

(a) a circumferential member composed of a foam material generally conforming to the shape of a user's head and having an interior surface, and the circumferential member having an imperforate first section for covering a forehead, and an imperforate back section for covering a back of the head, two side sections, integrally connected to the back section and front section, for covering ears of the user, and the side sections having at least one aperture;

(b) a plurality of internal pads, spaced apart from one another, and secured to the interior surface of the circumferential member adjacent to predetermined areas of the head, and the internal pads absorb or disperse trauma forces applied to the headgear,

(c) a plurality of impact plates affixed to the interior surface of circumferential member, and each impact plate is disposed between the circumferential member and a corresponding internal pad, and the impact plates absorb or disperse trauma force applied to the headgear; and,

(d) the impact plates including a first impact plate and a second impact plate, each affixed to a corresponding side section of the circumferential member on the interior surface of the circumferential member and generally conforming to a shape of an ear, and not covering the aperture.

8. The device of claim 7 further wherein the plurality of impact plates includes a third impact plate positioned on the interior surface of the back section of the circumferential member.

9. The device of claim 7 wherein said device circumferential member and internal pads are covered with a polyvinyl coating material.

10. The device of claim 7 further comprising a chin protector section composed of a foam material and integrally connected with the side sections of the circumferential member.

11. The device of claim 10 wherein the plurality of impact plates includes a fourth impact plate affixed to the interior surface of the circumferential member on the chin protector section, and the device further including an internal pad affixed to the circumferential member and covering the impact plate.

12. A method for the fabrication of a protective headgear device, comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a foam material to define a resilient and flexible circumferential member to generally conform to the shape of a user's head;
- (b) positioning a plurality of rigid and resilient impact plates at predetermined locations on an interior surface of the circumferential member;
- (c) affixing the impact plates to the interior surface of the circumferential member at said predetermined locations;
- (d) positioning a plurality of internal pads along the interior surface of the circumferential member at said predetermined locations; and,
- (e) affixing each said internal pad to the interior surface of the circumferential member over a corresponding impact plate.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of forming each said impact plate into a shape generally outlining a predetermined area on a users head.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of forming each internal pad with a shape outlining a shape of each impact plate.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of forming the foam material includes cutting a substantially flat piece of foam material to include two half portions of the circumferential member, and each half portion includes a respective front section, top section and side section of the circumferential member

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the steps of positioning and affixing the impact plates and internal pads include positioning and affixing a first and second impact plate on respective side sections of each half portion, and the first and second

impact plates are positioned to absorb or disperse force applied to a user's ear, and the steps of positioning an internal pad over the first and second impact plate and affixing the internal pads to the respective half portions.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of forming the foam material includes the step of adhering the two half portions together along the respective back section, top section and front section of each half portion.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the steps of positioning and affixing the impact plates and internal pads include positioning and affixing a third impact plate on the back section of the circumferential member, and positioning an internal pad over the third impact plate and affixing the third internal pad to the back section of the circumferential member, after the two halves of the circumferential member have been adhered to one another along the back section.